QUALITY ROMANCE
MARCH
No. 27
Exotic ROMANCES
10¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
See
I WAITED TOO LATE
YES, NANCY, I AM DATING TESS BLAKE! I WON'T WAIT FOR YOU FOREVER WHILE YOU PLAY NURSEMAID TO YOUR KID SISTER!
MY YOUTHFUL DATE
Afraid to Marry
DID I LOVE HIM ENOUGH?

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I LOVED STAN HOLT WITH ALL MY HEART... BUT TIME AND AGAIN I PUT HIM OFF WHEN HE BEGGED ME TO SET OUR WEDDING DAY! THEN THE TIME CAME WHEN I HAD TO SAY YES OR LOSE HIM FOREVER! I COULDN'T BEAR TO GIVE HIM UP... BUT I STILL COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL HIM WHY I WAS...

Afraid To Marry

I STILL CAN'T BEAR TO DWELL ON MY MOTHER'S LAST ILLNESS SO I'LL START WITH THE DAY OF HER FUNERAL!

YOU MUSTN'T LET GRIEF TEAR YOU DOWN, KAY! YOUR MOTHER WOULD WANT YOU TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY TRADITIONS!

I KN-KNOW, DR. VEEKER! Y-YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I HAVE LEFT TO LEAN ON! M-MOTHER DEPENDED ON YOU AND SO DO I!

GOOD! BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE YOU AT MY OFFICE TOMORROW, KAY! I HAVEN'T LIKED YOUR COLOR LATELY! BE THERE AT THREE FOR A THOROUGH EXAMINATION!

ALL R-RIGHT, DR. VEEKER!

NOW, STOP WORRYING, DEAR! AS AN HEIRESS WITH SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS TO ADMINISTER, YOU'LL HAVE NO TIME FOR WEAKNESS!

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT! YOU'VE BEEN SO WONDERFUL! I KNOW MOTHER WOULD HAVE GONE LONG AGO IF YOU HADN'T TAKEN CARE OF HER!

YES, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS RICH! OUR FAMILY HAD ALWAYS HAD MONEY... BUT THEN I WOULD HAVE TRADED EVERY DOLLAR FOR JUST SOMEONE WHO CARED!

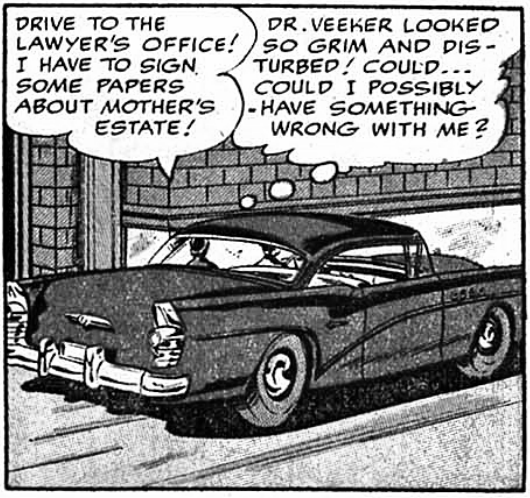
WE WANT TO TELL YOU HOW BADLY WE FEEL, MISS KAY! AND TO ASSURE YOU WE'LL STAND BY TO HELP YOU ALL WE CAN!

TH-THANK YOU, HUDSON! AND THANK ALL OF YOU! I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITHOUT YOU!

I HAD TO KEEP MY HEAD UP... BUT ALONE IN MY ROOM...

:SOB: EVERYBODY'S SO KIND... BUT I'D RATHER HAVE JUST ONE BOY WHO CARED FOR ME! I'VE BEEN SO LONELY FOR Y-YEARS!

I H-HAVEN'T BEEN TO A PARTY OR HAD A DATE SINCE MOTHER'S HEART GOT SO BAD! I WISH I WERE JUST A WORKING GIRL! I'D HAVE FRIENDS... AND DATES!



And THAT IS HOW I CAME TO MEET STAN HOLT... WHOSE SMILE HAD THE WARMTH OF SUNSHINE FOR ME! I'D EXPECTED AN OLDER MAN!

STAN'S QUIET COURTESY AND THE UNSPOKEN SYMPATHY IN HIS EYES MADE MY LIFE SEEM LESS DARKLY CLOUDED FOR A MOMENT!
I'M SURE YOU HANDLE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT CASES, MR. HOLT!
SOME DAY I MEAN TO HANDLE THE BIGGEST, BUT RIGHT NOW YOU MUST BE ANXIOUS TO GET THIS NUISANCE OVER WITH!
WHO IS THIS DR. VEEKER? HE SENT AN ENORMOUS BILL, BUT I DON'T FIND HIS NAME IN THE MEDICAL REGISTER!
OH, HE'S NOT A REGULAR DOCTOR, BUT I'M SURE HIS TREATMENTS HELPED MOTHER KEEP GOING THIS PAST YEAR!
YOU LOOK TIRED, MISS DRAKE! WOULD.. WOULD YOU CARE TO STOP AT THE FOUNTAIN DOWNSTAIRS FOR SOMETHING COOL?
IT SOUNDS WONDERFUL! THIS STRAIN HAS BEEN TERRIBLE THESE PAST DAYS!
IN NO TIME WE WERE CALLING EACH OTHER STAN AND KAY! I HAD NOT FELT SO RELAXED AND COMFORTABLE IN MONTHS!
THIS HAS BEEN PLEASANT, KAY! I..I WISH IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN SOME TIME!
I ENJOYED IT, STAN! IN FACT, I'D LIKE VERY MUCH TO HAVE IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
KAY! YOU... YOU MEAN I COULD ASK YOU FOR A DATE? HOW ABOUT A QUIET DINNER AND DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY TOMORROW NIGHT?
I'D LOVE IT! IT GETS SO LONELY IN THAT BIG HOUSE NOW I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING NICER TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
THERE WERE NO TEARS ON MY PILLOW THAT NIGHT... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS! BUT I WASN'T IN LOVE... NOT THEN!
HE'S SO NICE... AND I KNOW HE LIKES ME! IT WOULD BE GRAND TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE STAN, EVEN JUST FOR A FRIEND!
OUR DATE THE FOLLOWING EVENING WAS PERFECT! STAN TOOK ME TO A QUIET LITTLE INN IN THE COUNTRY!
I WAS SURE YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING BOISTEROUS OR GAY AT THIS TIME!
THIS IS A PERFECT CHOICE, STAN! I COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR A NICER PLACE OR BETTER TASTE!

AFTERWARD WE WENT FOR A RIDE ALONG THE COAST! EVERY MOMENT WITH STAN MADE HIM SEEM MORE WONDERFUL AND MORE IMPORTANT TO ME!

I WENT THROUGH THE FIRST TREATMENT IN A DAZE! ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS MOTHER LAST YEAR, AN INVALID AFRAID TO MOVE!

The DAY WENT BY IN A TANGLE OF EMOTIONS! THE EVENINGS WITH STAN WERE HALF BLISS, HALF TEARING ANGUISH AT THE SECRET I DARED NOT REVEAL!

WOULD YOU CARE TO DANCE, KAY? I'VE BEEN WAITING A DECENT INTERVAL BEFORE I SUGGESTED A LITTLE GAYETY AND FUN!

I'D LOVE TO, STAN! DANCING IS ONE OF MY.. OHHH...NO... NO! I CAN'T TONIGHT! I..I'M A LITTLE TIRED!

I WANTED TO BE GAY! I WANTED TO CRY, TOO! BUT I COULDN'T TELL STAN WHAT WAS WRONG! DR. VEEKER REPEATED THAT CONSTANTLY!

DR. VEEKER'S RIGHT! STAN WOULDN'T DATE ME IF HE THOUGHT I MIGHT C-COLLAPSE WITH A HEART ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT?

LATER, WHEN STAN DROVE ME HOME...

KAY, I KEEP FEELING SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU! IS IT SOMETHING I CAN HELP CLEAR UP? I HATE TO SEE YOU SO DEPRESSED!

OH, N-NO, STAN! IT'S NOTHING! I GUESS I'M JUST MISSING MOTHER!

I WANT YOU HAPPY, KAY...AND I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY! I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! COULD YOU LOVE ME, DEAREST?

STAN! OH, YES, YES! I'VE LOVED YOU ALMOST FROM THE FIRST DAY IN YOUR OFFICE!

FOR A FEW MOMENTS I FORGOT EVERYTHING BUT THE WONDER OF STAN'S ARMS AND LIPS, THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL MY DREAMS!

Then SUDDENLY MY GOLDEN BUBBLE BURST AS COLD REALITY CAME BACK!

OH, MY PRECIOUS BELOVED! WE'LL BE MARRIED RIGHT AWAY! SET THE DATE, MY DEAREST! MAKE OUR LIVES COMPLETE!

M-MARRIED! OH, NO! I C-CAN'T!

HOW COULD I MARRY STAN... TIE HIM DOWN TO AN INVALID... ROB HIM OF ALL THE FUN HE COULD HAVE WITH A NORMAL GIRL?

SOB! I CAN'T! I CAN'T!

KAY...WAIT! WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME!

Then I REMEMBERED... I MUST NOT EVEN RUN! STAN CAUGHT UP ON THE STEPS! I HAD TO HIDE THE TRUTH FROM HIM OR LOSE HIM!

DID I SAY SOMETHING TO HURT YOU, DEAR KAY? WHAT IS IT?

IT'S NOTHING, STAN! I'M JUST NERVOUS AND OVERWROUGHT! KNOWING YOU LOVE ME WAS STARTLING! I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG!

POOR DARLING! AS LONG AS YOU LOVE ME NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!

YOU'RE SO KIND AND WONDERFUL, STAN! I COULDN'T STAND IT WITHOUT YOU! :SOB:

I ALMOST BLURTED MY SECRET.. BUT SUDDENLY I WAS TERRIBLY AFRAID!

I CAN'T LOSE HIM! IF I CAN JUST PUT OFF A WEDDING DATE, I'M SURE I'LL GET BETTER SO WE CAN REALLY BE HAPPY!

At MY TREATMENT THE NEXT DAY, I TOLD DR. VEEKER! HIS REACTION WAS A SHOCK!

WHAT.? YOU LITTLE FOOL, EVEN THE EXCITEMENT OF A WEDDING MIGHT BE TOO MUCH! YOU'RE NOT IMPROVING NEARLY AS I'D EXPECTED! YOU'RE MAD TO EVEN THINK OF MARRYING THAT MAN!

YOU'RE LONELY, KAY! MARRY ME! I'VE BEEN FOND OF YOU FOR YEARS! I CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU REGULARLY, PROLONGING YOUR LIFE!

YOU? WHY I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU THAT WAY! THIS IS SUCH A SURPRISE! I..I LIKE YOU, DR. VEEKER, BUT IT'S STAN I LOVE!

GIVE HIM UP! I ABSOLUTELY FORBID YOU TO THINK OF SUCH MADNESS! MAYBE AFTER A YEAR OF TREATMENT!

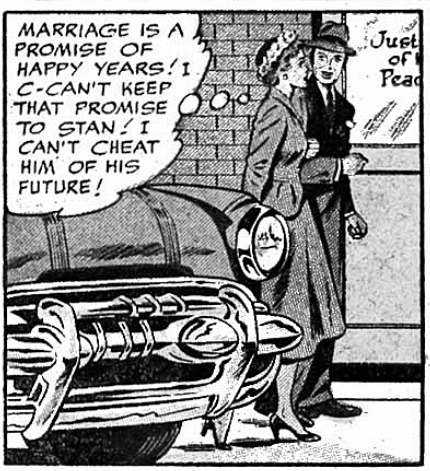
I'LL W-WAIT! I'D WAIT FOREVER FOR STAN!

But WAITING WASN'T EASY! EXCUSES TO PUT STAN OFF GOT HARDER AND HARDER TO DIG UP!

KAY, DEAREST, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU AND I GOT THIS BUSINESS SETTLED! WILL YOU MARRY ME NEXT WEEK...OR EVEN NEXT MONTH?

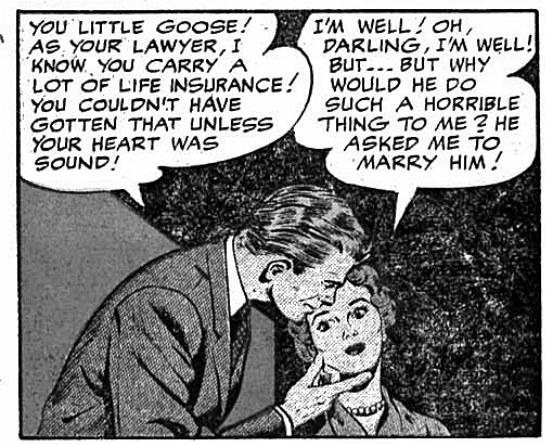
I CAN'T, STAN! PLEASE DON'T ASK ME WHY! I L-LOVE YOU, BUT I CAN'T!

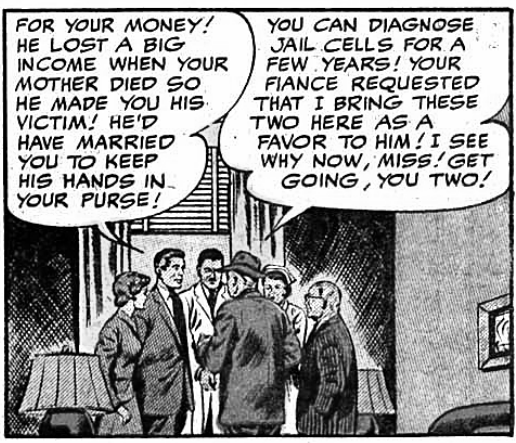
All THE WAY TO THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, MY MIND WAS A BATTLE GROUND OF CONFLICTING EMOTIONS! SUDDENLY I KNEW I COULD NOT GO THROUGH WITH IT!



DR. VEEKER! NURSE COLTER! I..I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THEN LISTEN WHILE DETECTIVE CONWAY GIVES YOU A QUICK RUNDOWN ON A DIRTY RACKET!

WE'VE WAITED A LONG TIME TO GET THE GOODS ON THIS QUACK AND HIS GIRL FRIEND! THAT PHONEY DIAGNOSIS HE GAVE YOU WAS THE EVIDENCE WE NEEDED!
YOU..YOU MEAN I DON'T HAVE A HEART CONDITION? I'M WELL?


YOU LITTLE GOOSE! AS YOUR LAWYER, I KNOW YOU CARRY A LOT OF LIFE INSURANCE! YOU COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THAT UNLESS YOUR HEART WAS SOUND!
I'M WELL! OH, DARLING, I'M WELL! BUT... BUT WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A HORRIBLE THING TO ME? HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM!


FOR YOUR MONEY! HE LOST A BIG INCOME WHEN YOUR MOTHER DIED SO HE MADE YOU HIS VICTIM! HE'D HAVE MARRIED YOU TO KEEP HIS HANDS IN YOUR PURSE!
YOU CAN DIAGNOSE JAIL CELLS FOR A FEW YEARS! YOUR FIANCE REQUESTED THAT I BRING THESE TWO HERE AS A FAVOR TO HIM! I SEE WHY NOW, MISS! GET GOING, YOU TWO!

I WAS STUNNED, DAZED WITH HAPPINESS AND THE INCREDIBLE KNOWLEDGE THAT I WAS SOUND AND WELL!
YOU CAN HAVE A LEGITIMATE HEART TEST LATER, DARLING, BUT THE INSURANCE DOCTORS ASSURE ME YOU'RE PERFECT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I TH-THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS ENDED!

IT'S ONLY BEGINNING, MY DEAREST! YOU CAN BRING YOUR WITNESSES NOW! WE'RE READY!

HMMM! I GUESS I CALLED YOU FOLKS A MITE SOON AT THAT... BUT WE DON'T MIND WAITING!

YES, GREGG HILTON HAD BEEN MINE... ALL MY HEART AND SOUL AND LIFE! HE ASKED ME... BEGGED ME ...TO MARRY HIM AND MY ACHING HEART ECHOED HIS PLEA! BUT I PUT HIM OFF WHILE I MEDDLED IN MY YOUNGER SISTER'S LIFE! THEN I AWOKE ONE TERRIBLE DAY WITH EMPTY ARMS AND THE AWFUL REALIZATION THAT...

I Waited Too Late

SURE! SHE'D GET A DATE OF HER OWN! AND WHY NOT, FOR PETE'S SAKE? THE KID'S ALMOST 20 YEARS OLD AND LONESOME!
OH, GREGG, PLEASE... NOT THAT BITTER, SENSELESS ARGUMENT AGAIN! I'VE TRIED AND TRIED TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND!

HONEY, FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME... MARRY ME! RUTHIE CAN LIVE WITH US! AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE SOME TIME TOGETHER WHILE YOU'RE BUSY SCREENING HER BOY FRIENDS!
I...I CAN'T, GREGG! NOT YET! IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOU...OR TO US! MARRIAGE SHOULD ONLY BE FOR TWO PEOPLE...

BUT I WANT TO, DARLING! I WANT TO SO TERRIBLY MUCH! JUST BE PATIENT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!
NAN, NAN, WE'VE WAITED ALMOST A YEAR, NOW...

IN GREGG'S TENDER ARMS I ALMOST WEAKENED! THEN I STEELED MYSELF! MY YOUNG SISTER'S FUTURE *HAD* TO COME FIRST!

YOU WILL BE OVER LATER, GREGG, WON'T YOU? I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR WONDERFUL PLANS!
I DON'T KNOW, NANCY! I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN TAKE IT! BUT I PROBABLY WILL DROP AROUND!

POOR GREGG, HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND! MEN MAKE THEIR OWN FUTURES BUT A GIRL HAS TO *MARRY* HERS!

I'M HOME, RU... OH! I...I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD COMPANY!
NANCY, MEET TOM GRANT! TOM'S A CLERK IN SPORTING GOODS AT THE STORE! HIS COUNTER'S RIGHT ACROSS FROM MINE!

WE FIXED OUR DINNER AND ATE IN A COLD SILENCE I WOULD HAVE GIVEN ANYTHING TO BREAK! WHEN THE DISHES WERE DONE---

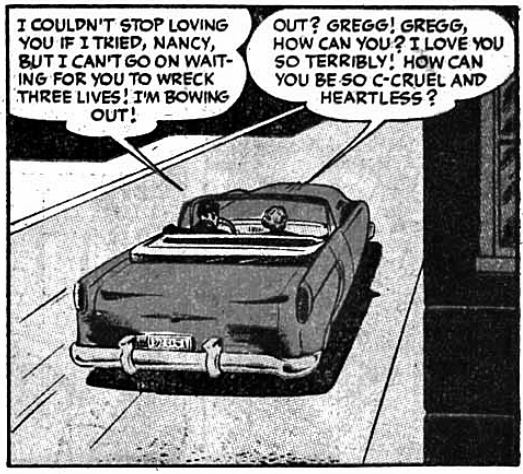
HER ANGRY WORDS WERE PROPHETIC! GREGG DIDN'T SHOW UP---AND I DID CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP!

IN THE MORNING RUTH WAS STILL COLD AND DISTANT! AND AT THE OFFICE GREGG HAD NO WARMING SMILE!
I...I SAT UP LATE, HOPING YOU'D COME OVER LAST NIGHT, GREGG!
I DECIDED NOT TO! I COULDN'T GET A REFUND ON THOSE THEATRE TICKETS SO I USED THEM!

TH-THEM?
YES! I RAN INTO TESS BLAKE DOWNTOWN! SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY SISTER'S LIFE TO MANAGE SO I TOOK HER!

TESS BLAKE! OH, SHE'S TRIED AND TRIED TO GET GREGG AWAY FROM ME! SHE MUST FEEL S-SMUG AND TRIUMPHANT TODAY!

I TRIED TO HIDE MY TORMENT BUT THE DAY DRAGGED BY ENDLESSLY! AS I STARTED TO LEAVE ALONE...
GREGG! BUT I THOUGHT...
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, NANCY! I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME!


I COULDN'T STOP LOVING YOU IF I TRIED, NANCY, BUT I CAN'T GO ON WAITING FOR YOU TO WRECK THREE LIVES! I'M BOWING OUT!
OUT? GREGG! GREGG, HOW CAN YOU? I LOVE YOU SO TERRIBLY! HOW CAN YOU BE SO C-CRUEL AND HEARTLESS?

I WONDER THE SAME ABOUT YOU! RUTHIE HAS AS MUCH RIGHT TO CHOOSE HER HAPPINESS AS YOU HAD! SOONER OR LATER SHE'LL GET THE COURAGE TO REBEL...

SHE'LL MARRY ANYBODY TO ESCAPE YOUR TYRANNY! THEN ALL YOUR CUTE PLANS WILL GO UP IN SMOKE!
SHE WOULDN'T! NATURALLY RUTH RESENTS MY INTERFERENCE, BUT DEEP IN HER HEART SHE KNOWS I'M RIGHT!

I KEPT MY FACE WOODEN AND MY EYES DRY UNTIL I GOT TO OUR APARTMENT! THEN THE FLOOD-GATES OF ANGUISH LET GO!

JUST BECAUSE GREGG HAS A FINE JOB AND FUTURE SET, YOU THINK A FELLOW LIKE TOM ISN'T WORTH LOVING AND HELPING!
NO, RUTH! I DID THINK THAT...BUT I KNOW BETTER NOW!

GREGG QUIT HIS JOB... HIS FUTURE, BECAUSE OF ME! I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN... AND I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM!
OH, NANCY, NO...! HOW AWFUL!

YOU WERE WRONG, BUT YOU MEANT TO DO RIGHT! NOW GREGG WILL HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN AT THE BOTTOM!
BUT I'D MARRY HIM IN A MOMENT! I SEE THAT NOW! IT'S LOVE THAT REALLY MATTERS ...BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER!

THEN TELL HIM! NOT EVEN PRIDE IS AS IMPORTANT AS LOVE! CALL HIM AND TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL!
I WILL! I'LL SHOW HIM I REALIZE ALL THE HORRIBLE WRONG IDEAS I HAD!

NO ANSWER! HE'S OUT... OUT WITH THAT TESS BLAKE!
WRONG, DEAREST! OUT WALKING UP AND DOWN YOUR HALL, GETTING COURAGE TO TELL YOU HE WOULD WAIT FOREVER FOR YOU!

GREGG! GREGG, YOU CAME BACK! DON'T EVER LEAVE ME AGAIN!
SOMEONE LEFT THE DOOR AJAR! I...I EAVESDROPPED AND HEARD YOU CALL ME! NOW I KNOW EVERYTHING IS RIGHT!

AND IT WAS... WONDERFULLY, BEAUTIFULLY RIGHT FOR FOUR HAPPY PEOPLE!

My Youthful Date

BRUCE IS TOO OLD FOR YOU, EDNA! AND HE NEVER GAVE YOU ANY ENCOURAGEMENT!

BUT MY OWN MOTHER! WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME? WHY DID HE LET ME FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM?

IT HAD BEEN A ROUGH GRIND FOR MOM AND FOR ME! WE HAD BEEN ALONE FOR SO MANY YEARS, AND THOUGH THE DRESS SHOP I HELPED MY MOTHER OPERATE WAS A PROFITABLE VENTURE, IT LEFT NO TIME FOR FUN... OR FOR ROMANCE! AND AT EIGHTEEN, STARVED FOR KISSES AND WHISPERED WORDS OF ENDEARMENT, IT NEVER OCCURED TO ME THAT MY MOTHER'S HEART, TOO, CRIED OUT FOR LOVE! IRONICALLY AND TRAGICALLY, WHEN ROMANCE CAME INTO OUR LIVES IT WAS WHEN WE BOTH FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME MAN!

Mom's promised to take me to Los Angeles on her next buying trip! I'm so excited, dear diary, that I can't wait!

WE'RE GOING TO DO MORE THAN BUY CALIFORNIA CASUALS, EDNA! IT'S GOING TO BE A VACATION, TOO! WE'LL STAY WITH THE JACKSONS... OH, WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THEIR HOME AT LAGUNA BEACH! THEY HAVE A SON YOUR AGE AND HE'S PROMISED TO SEE THAT YOU'RE KEPT BUSY!

GOSH, MAYBE I'LL MEET SOMEBODY EXCITING!

OPEN DURING REMODELING.

YOU MIGHT! AFTER ALL, DARLING, I DID! BUT THAT'S A SECRET YOU'LL FIND OUT ABOUT LATER!

I ONLY HOPE THIS REMODELING JOB IS FINISHED SO WE CAN LEAVE MONDAY! IT'S GOING TO BE GLORIOUS!

PERHAPS OUR PLAN WAS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE! FOR THE DAY BEFORE WE WERE TO LEAVE ST. LOUIS!
THEY AREN'T GOING TO HAVE THE PARTITION FOR THE SUIT DEPARTMENT FINISHED IN TIME! AND I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT OKAYING THE FIXTURES!
YOU MEAN WE CAN'T GO FOR ANOTHER WEEK!

BUT I GO BACK TO SCHOOL ON THE FIRST! THAT WOULDN'T LEAVE ANY TIME AT ALL IN CALIFORNIA! OH, GOLLY!
AND I HATE TO UPSET LAURA JACKSON'S PLANS! SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU IN PARTICULAR!

WELL, NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT I DISAPPOINTED AN OLD BUSINESS CONTACT, LET ALONE MY DAUGHTER! YOU GO ON AHEAD, HONEY! AS SOON AS THIS JOB IS FINISHED, I'LL HOP A PLANE AND JOIN YOU!
YOU MEAN I'M GOING TO TAKE THE TRIP ALONE? I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO BE THRILLED OR DISAPPOINTED!

AS IT HAPPENED, I WAS THRILLED! ESPECIALLY WHEN MRS. JACKSON AND HER SON, DALE, MET ME AT THE LOS ANGELES AIRPORT!
EVERY BIT AS LOVELY AS HER MOTHER, ISN'T SHE, DALE?
AND SHE'S JUST EIGHTEEN! I CONSIDER THAT A VERY IMPORTANT POINT IN HER FAVOR!
TWA

DALE AND I WERE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER IMMEDIATELY AND THE NEXT TWO DAYS WERE PARADISE!
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD INTRODUCE YOU TO THE CROWD, BUT YOUR VACATION'S TOO SHORT! I'D BE JEALOUS OF YOUR TIME!
I'D JUST AS SOON STAY RIGHT HERE, DALE! IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

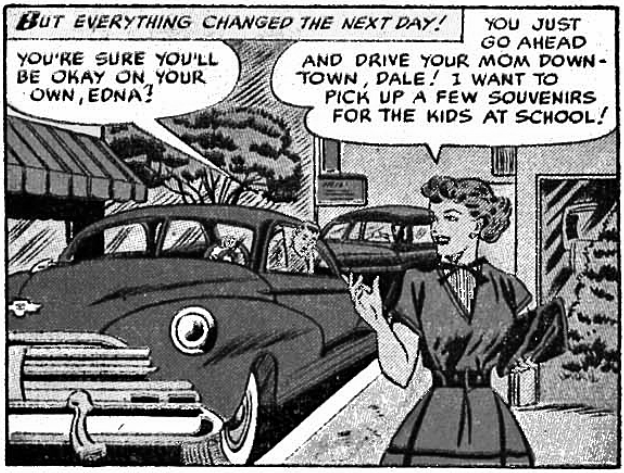
ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SCENERY OR BEING WITH ME?
BOTH! IT WAS SUCH FUN VISITING ALL THOSE QUAINT ART SHOPS WITH YOU THIS MORNING! AND I KNOW I'LL REMEMBER THIS BEACH ALL MY LIFE!

REMEMBER IT? MAYBE THINGS WILL WORK OUT SO THAT... YOU'LL BE COMING BACK HERE, EDNA!
I HOPE SO, DALE!
HE HASN'T WASTED ANY TIME! MAYBE I'LL FIND ROMANCE HERE A LOT SOONER THAN I EXPECTED!

DALE ANSWERED THE DESCRIPTION OF MY DREAM MAN IN EVERY DETAIL, AND BEFORE THE WEEK HAD ENDED!
YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, EDNA! AND EVERYTHING IS FUN WHEN YOU'RE HERE! IT'S GOING TO BE AWFULLY DULL WHEN YOU LEAVE!
DON'T LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT, DALE! I WANT TO ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF THIS!

I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU, HONEY! I'M SO AFRAID YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT ME WHEN YOU'RE BACK HOME!
I WON'T FORGET, DALE! I'LL WRITE AND... MAYBE SOMEDAY WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN!

DALE'S KISS WAS BOYISH AND SWEET BUT IT STIRRED EMOTIONS IN ME THAT I NEVER KNEW EXISTED!
IS THIS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN LOVE? IT'S ALL LIKE A CONFUSING, WONDERFUL DREAM!


BUT EVERYTHING CHANGED THE NEXT DAY!
YOU'RE SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY ON YOUR OWN, EDNA?
YOU JUST GO AHEAD AND DRIVE YOUR MOM DOWN-TOWN, DALE! I WANT TO PICK UP A FEW SOUVENIRS FOR THE KIDS AT SCHOOL!

IT'S SO EXCITING BEING AWAY FROM HOME AND GOING PLACES BY MYSELF! ONE OF THOSE POTTERY STUDIOS ON THE HILL MIGHT HAVE SOME INTERESTING GIFT ITEMS!
EDNA FORD! YOU COULDN'T BE ANYONE ELSE!

WHY YES... I..I AM! HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I'M A... FRIEND OF YOUR MOTHER'S! BRUCE ROWLAND.. PERHAPS SHE'S TOLD YOU ABOUT ME!

YOU OWN THE ROWLAND SPORTSWEAR COMPANY! OH, YES, MOTHER TOLD ME SHE HAD DINNER WITH YOU A FEW TIMES ON HER LAST TRIP!
I WAS SORRY TO HEAR SHE WAS DELAYED! BUT WE'LL HAVE TO GET ACQUAINTED WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR HER!

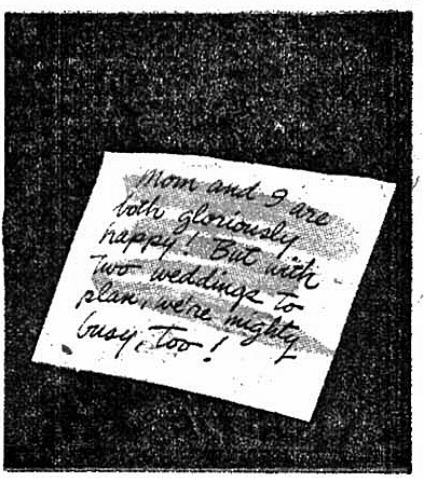
BRUCE ROWLAND'S SUAVE MANNER AND HIS MATURE GOOD LOOKS MADE ME THINK I WAS TALKING TO A MATINEE IDOL! AND TO MY AMAZEMENT, HE SEEMED OVERWHELMINGLY INTERESTED IN ME!
YOU'RE EVEN PRETTIER THAN THE PICTURES I'VE SEEN OF YOU, MY DEAR! AND SUCH REFRESHING COMPANY!
THANK YOU, BRUCE!
EVERY SMART WOMAN IN THE PLACE IS GAPING AT HIM... BUT HE'S PAYING COMPLIMENTS TO ME!
LATER!
IF YOUR HOSTESS DOESN'T MIND, SUPPOSE WE DO A LITTLE SIGHTSEEING TOMORROW? I'D CALL FOR YOU ABOUT TEN!
WONDERFUL! I'LL BE WAITING, BRUCE! AND I'M SURE MRS. JACKSON WON'T MIND!
R. E. JACKS
DALE'S FOLKS KNEW THAT BRUCE WAS A FRIEND OF MOTHER'S, SO THEY DIDN'T OBJECT TO MY DATE WITH HIM! BUT WHEN HE BEGAN TO MONOPOLIZE MY TIME, IT WAS DALE WHO GREW RESENTFUL!
HE'S TERRIFIC, DALE, AND HE KNOWS EVERYBODY! WE WENT TO THE COCONUT GROVE AND HE INTRODUCED ME TO A PRODUCER WHO FIXED IT SO WE CAN VISIT A MOVIE STUDIO TODAY, AND...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE PRETTY BUSY! OH, WELL... I CAN'T COMPETE WITH A WEALTHY MAN-ABOUT-TOWN.
I FEEL SORRY FOR DALE, BUT HE'S LIKE A LITTLE BOY! BRUCE MAKES ME FEEL GROWN UP AND GLAMOROUS! AND... I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM!
EXHILARATED BY THE WHIRL OF DATES, THRILLED BY BRUCE'S SOPHISTICATION AND THE ATTENTIONS HE SHOWERED UPON ME, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT I WAS HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH HIM!
I HAD AN IDEA YOU'D LIKE THESE OUTDOOR MARKETS AND SHOPS!
AND THIS SIDEWALK CAFE! IT'S LIKE VISITING PARIS!
I HAVE ANOTHER SURPRISE FOR YOU! TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO CHARTER A DEEP-SEA FISHING BOAT AND GO OUT FOR ALBACORE!
I..I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT, BRUCE! NOW I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SWEPT OFF YOUR FEET!
MENU
IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT BRUCE WAS TERRIBLY FOND OF ME... HOW LONG BEFORE HE WOULD TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS?
ISN'T THAT MOON BEAUTIFUL? COULDN'T WE STOP FOR A MOMENT, BRUCE, AND... LOOK OUT AT THE OCEAN?
I'M AFRAID IT'S RATHER LATE, KITTEN! WE DON'T WANT MRS. JACKSON WAITING UP FOR YOU AND WORRYING!

I HATED TO HURT DALE, BUT COMPARED WITH BRUCE HE WAS LIKE A CHILD! AND MY ACHING DESIRE FOR THE FIRE OF BRUCE'S LOVE DROVE EVERYTHING ELSE FROM MY MIND AND HEART! AND THEN, ONE EVENING...

BUT IMAGINE MY SHOCK AND THE CRUSHING DESPAIR THAT CAME OVER ME WHEN I SAW BRUCE'S "SURPRISE" THE NEXT MORNING!

HEART-BROKEN AND HUMILIATED, I RAN TO MY ROOM AND I GAVE WAY TO THE UNCONTROLLABLE SOBS THAT SHOOK MY BODY!

BUT DALE'S ARMS HELD ME CLOSE, AND SUDDENLY I KNEW HIS LOVE WAS WHAT I WANTED! A YOUNG LOVE... A LOVE I COULD CALL MY OWN!



Girls! This BIG PLAYHOUSE can now be yours for *only* $1

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COMPLETE

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NO TOOLS NEEDED!

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The Choice Was Mine

NOW I ask you what does a girl do when two of the handsomest, most charming bachelors in town, ask her to choose between them? This is the sort of thing that often happens in movie plots but I certainly never expected to be in such a delightful quandary. "Maggie," said Roger firmly, "Ed and I have been tagging you for months now and it's time you made a decision. It's true that Ed is stable, earnest, handsome, affluent and plays a good game of golf, but on the other hand, I've got certain undeniable charm. Choose, woman!" This was all said midst much hilarity at a gay little party to which both men had escorted me. The other guests all laughed appreciatively. They were used to Roger's flights of humor, but this time I knew it wasn't all jest. "No kidding, Maggie," added Ed, "our intentions are serious."

It started when I had my first date with Ed. We had joined Roger and another girl for dinner and dancing and the next day Roger called and asked for a date, explaining that he had Ed's permission to call. "That's right friendly of Ed," I laughed. "We have a sturdy friendship, gal," replied Roger. From then on I dated one or the other of them, never expecting it to develop into anything serious. Then one night after skiing, we three were sitting around a roaring fire when they told me that they both loved me and asked me what I was going to do about it. "Why I think you're both grand," I laughed, at first thinking it was a joke. But they made it clear they weren't kidding. Lately, it had begun to wear on me a little. I liked them both so much, I guess I was even a little in love with them, but certainly, I had no feeling for either of them that I could settle on as real, honest to goodness love.

The party was well launched and I was dancing with Roger when the final batch of guests arrived, late and from out of town. I didn't notice them at first but I felt someone watching me, and thinking it was Ed, I turned to look at him. It was the man next to him. A wonderful thrill of excitement went through me as I returned his look. After the dance, Ed introduced us. "I want you to meet Maggie, the girl Roger and I both love, Bill," he said lightly. Bill looked at me seriously and replied, "I think I can understand that, Ed." He asked me to dance and moments later, I knew. This was the man I had been waiting for, the honest to goodness love I dreamed of.

Bill tells me now, months later, that it hit him like that, too. "The minute I walked into that room and saw you dancing," he said, "I knew without any doubt, you were the girl for me. But I must admit I had some misgivings about those two good-looking guys who were pursuing you so heatedly. Tell me, Maggie, what made you choose me over either of them?" "Just one small phrase, darling," I replied softly. "Honest to goodness love. A girl really knows it when it's there."

Bill and I will be married next week and Ed and Roger will be ushers at the wedding. They were sweet about our engagement and tried to be understanding when I explained why. I know they'll really understand when they've found this love for themselves.

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I THOUGHT I WAS DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH CAL TATE! MY CUP OF HAPPINESS SEEMED FILLED TO OVERFLOWING WHEN HE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM! THEN THE DARK SHADOW OF MY BURNING AMBITION CAME BETWEEN US AND FINALLY DROVE HIM AWAY! I LOVED HIM AND WANTED HIM BACK... BUT A TERRIBLE QUESTION BEGAN TO GNAW AT MY ACHING HEART...

Did I Love Him Enough?

WITH CAL'S TENDER KISS, ALL THE DREAMS IN MY HEART CAME TRUE!

There WAS A LOVER'S MOON IN THE SKY AND IT DREW US DOWN TO THE SILVERY BEACH!
WE'LL GET A LITTLE HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS AND YOU CAN MEET ME AT THE STATION EACH EVENING!
WHAT? YOU DON'T HAVE THE OLD-FASHIONED IDEA THAT I'M GIVING UP MY COPEWRITING JOB JUST BECAUSF I GET MARRIED?

WHAT'S OLD-FASHIONED ABOUT IT? AS COPY CHIEF I CAN SUPPORT US BOTH! MARRIAGE IS ALL THE CAREER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE!
SO YOU THINK WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME, DO YOU? WELL, YOU JUST DRIVE ME TO MINE RIGHT NOW, CAL TATE!

WE DROVE HOME IN ANGRY SILENCE! BUT WHEN WE GOT TO MY DOOR!..
AW, HONEY, WE'VE BEEN ENGAGED ONE HOUR AND ALREADY WE'RE QUARRELING! I'M SORRY I OFFENDED YOU! I LOVE YOU, EVE!
AND I'M SORRY I WAS GRUMPY, DARLING! I LOVE YOU, TOO, CAL! WE'LL WORK THINGS OUT!

DON'T YOU SEE, EVE, THERE ARE A HUNDRED JUNIOR COPYWRITERS I'D BE GLAD TO HAVE AS ASSISTANT! BUT ONLY ONE GIRL IN THE WORLD WILL SUIT ME AS A WIFE!
OH, YES, I SEE...

IN OTHER WORDS, I'M NO BETTER THAN A HUNDRED OTHER ADVERTISING WRITERS! I'M JUST A HACK WITH NO FUTURE! IS THAT IT?
WELL, CONFOUND IT! YOU'RE NO FLAMING GENIUS WITH A WORLD-SHAKING CAREER AHEAD! YOU'RE JUST A GIRL I'M IN LOVE WITH!

LOVE, HA! YOU'RE JUST IN LOVE WITH YOUR OWN IMPORTANCE, AND YOU'RE AFRAID YOUR WIFE MIGHT SHOW YOU UP!
OF ALL THE STUBBORN, OPINIONATED FEMALES! WHEN YOU DECIDE WHICH FULL-TIME CAREER YOU WANT, LET ME KNOW!

OH, THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WE QUARRELED AND MADE UP A DOZEN TIMES OVER THE SAME ISSUE!
... BUT DEAREST, I'M NOT TRYING TO WRECK YOUR FUTURE! I'M ONLY TRYING TO SHOW YOU WHICH FUTURE IS IMPORTANT!
THEY'RE BOTH IMPORTANT! IF YOU'D ONLY SEE THAT, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THESE AWFUL QUARRELS ALL THE TIME!
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP!
H-HE DOESN'T REALLY LOVE ME! HE JUST WANTS A COOK AND A H-HOUSEKEEPER! SOB! H-HE DOESN'T EVEN THINK I'M A GOOD COPYWRITER!
I'LL SHOW HIM! I'LL PROVE I'M JUST AS GOOD IN ADVERTISING AS HE IS! THEN HE'LL SEE MY CAREER IS IMPORTANT, TOO!
I WORKED DESPERATELY HARD ON EVERY AD... AND THE RESULTS WERE GRATIFYING!
EVE'S NEW COPY IS TERRIFIC, CAL! WHY NOT LET HER HELP YOU ON THE CAP-WRAP CAMPAIGN YOU'RE PREPARING?
I'D RATHER NOT, MR. ADAMS! I'VE DONE THEIR STUFF FOR SO LONG I UNDERSTAND IT... AND THEY ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT ACCOUNT!
SO I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR AN IMPORTANT JOB! I'LL SHOW HIM! I'LL MAKE UP A CAMPAIGN OF MY OWN FOR CAP-WRAP!
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I WORKED AT HOME! I DIDN'T TELL CAL WHAT I WAS DOING AND HE NEVER GUESSED!
IF THEY LIKE MY ADS, CAL WILL HAVE TO ADMIT MY CAREER IS AS IMPORTANT AS HIS! THEN WE CAN STOP QUARRELING AND GET MARRIED!
AT LAST I FINISHED AND HANDED THEM IN TO MR. ADAMS!
IT SEEMED TO ME THE CAMPAIGN NEEDED MORE OF THE WOMAN'S ANGLE, MR. ADAMS! THESE ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS I ROUGHED OUT!
HMM! THEY LOOK INTERESTING, EVE! I'LL STUDY THEM AND IF THEY'RE GOOD, I'LL PRESENT THE IDEA TO CAP-WRAP MYSELF!
CAP WRAP

I WAS ON PINS AND NEEDLES ALL DAY, WAITING FOR NEWS ON MY CAMPAIGN! CAL HAD FINISHED HIS THAT MORNING, TOO!
LET'S CELEBRATE, HONEY! I FINALLY WOUND UP THE CAP-WRAP PROPOSALS! HOW ABOUT DINNER AND DANCING TONIGHT!
I'D LOVE IT, CAL! I'LL DAZZLE YOU WITH A NEW DRESS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE!
MY HEART WAS SINGING LOVE SONGS! I WAS SURE THAT OUR ARGUMENTS WOULD ALL BE ENDED SOON AND WE COULD PLAN OUR WEDDING!
LATE THAT AFTERNOON...
KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, HONEY! MR. ADAMS JUST GOT BACK FROM CAP-WRAP AND WANTS TO SEE ME!
THEY'RE CROSSED, DARLING! I HAVE A FEELING EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE WONDERFUL!
IT WAS ALMOST AN HOUR BEFORE CAL CAME OUT!
CONGRATULATIONS, SWEETHEART! YOU REALLY DID A FIRST CLASS JOB OF BACK-STABBING!
WHA... WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT'S WRONG, CAL?
NOTHING'S WRONG! I JUST GOT FIRED, THAT'S ALL! CAP-WRAP SAID YOUR IDEAS WERE NEW AND FRESH... SO YOU'RE THE NEW COPY CHIEF!
OH, NO, CAL! I..I ONLY WANTED TO PROVE TO YOU THAT I SHOULD HAVE A CAREER AFTER WE'RE MARRIED!
I LOVE YOU, CAL! NOTHING ELSE MATTERS! I WON'T TAKE THE JOB!
FINE! THEN ADAMS WILL LOSE THE CAP-WRAP ACCOUNT AND EVERYBODY WILL BE OUT OF A JOB! IF THIS IS LOVE, I CAN DO WITHOUT ANY MORE OF IT, THANKS!
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR DATE TONIGHT, CAL?
SORRY, I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE HELP WANTED ADS! AND YOU'VE GOT A DATE WITH YOUR GREAT CAREER! I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY!

I WAS TRAPPED.. TRAPPED BY MY OWN HEEDLESS AMBITION! NOW I COULD ONLY KEEP GOING ON MY HEART-BREAK PATH! I TRIED TO CALL CAL DAY AFTER DAY...

THE AFTERNOON DRAGGED BY AND AT LAST IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME!
M-MAYBE HE'LL COME TO MY APARTMENT TONIGHT! BUT WHAT IF HE ALREADY HAS A JOB AND ISN'T READING THE WANT ADS? BUT HE MUST READ IT! I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT CAL!
I TURNED TO PICK UP MY PURSE...AND THEN MY HEART STOOD STILL...
HAS...HAS THAT POSITION YOU ADVERTISED BEEN FILLED YET!
CAL! OH, YES! IT WAS JUST FILLED THIS VERY MINUTE! YOU'RE JUST THE TYPE I HAD IN MIND FOR THE JOB!
THE CLOUDS FLED AND THE BRIGHT SUN OF HAPPINESS BURST OVER ME!
AHEM!
THANK HEAVEN! NOW MAYBE I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO STAYING IN BUSINESS A LITTLE WHILE LONGER!
YOU CAN, MR. ADAMS!.. NOW THAT YOU CAN HIRE CAL BACK! I'M QUITTING RIGHT AWAY TO TAKE UP A MORE IMPORTANT CAREER!
NOW WAIT, DARLING! I WAS A STUBBORN FOOL BUT I KNOW NOW THAT YOU DO DESERVE A CAREER! WE'LL BE MARRIED AND WORK, TOO!
FINE! I CAN'T PAY TWO COPY CHIEF'S SALARIES! BUT I WANT YOU BACK, CAL, AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE EVE! I'LL PAY WHAT I CAN!
YOU'LL GET US BOTH FOR ONE SALARY! I CAN THINK ALL DAY WHILE I'M KEEPING HOUSE...AND AT NIGHT I'LL HELP CAL PLAN CAMPAIGNS!
NOW THAT'S THE SMARTEST IDEA, YET! LOOKS LIKE WE BOTH GAIN, CAL!
BUT CAL COLLECTS THE BIG BONUS!

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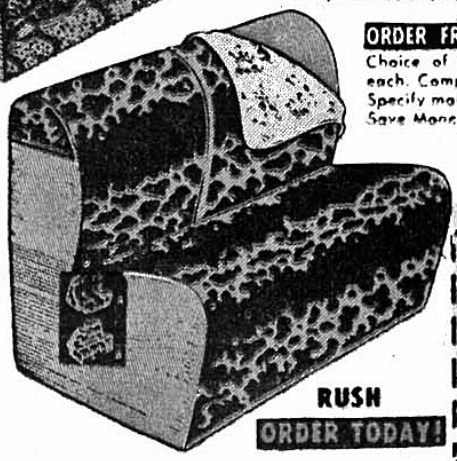

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